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April 28, 2020

Dr. Brian P. Monahan
Attending Physician of the United States Congress
The Attending Physicians Office
H-166
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Dr. Monahan,

I write to you today regarding my concern for the safety of the men and women of the press who cover Congress every day. The Fourth Estate is an integral part of our democracy and we must ensure that they are able to safely continue to do their jobs during this pandemic. To this end, I encourage you to establish standards and guidelines for the press corps that keep them safe while still allowing as close as possible the same level of access to Members of Congress the press has historically enjoyed.

Since the founding of our country, the press has served to keep our public informed and our leaders honest. In Congress, members of the press have unprecedented access to members throughout the office buildings, tunnels, and Capitol building. This tradition must be kept alive. In order to do this, members of the press must be included when developing guidelines to ensure the day-to-day operations continue of our government. We, of course, all recognize the "new normal" will require practices and procedures that will impact access to members and I ask such impacts on our freedom of press be mitigated to the most extent practicable.

I stand ready to assist you in this endeavor as we work together to reopen Congress and the country. In addition, I am asking our house leadership on both sides of the aisle do the same.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed
Member of Congress

CC: Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairperson Lofgren, and Ranking Member Davis

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